

# Wesley Methodist Church Spotlight - June 2018



## Change of Superintendent

Following much prayer and discussion and several meetings, the Circuit Leadership Team offer the following statement:

It was felt by the CLT and the Circuit Staff that a change in the Superintendency of the Black Country Circuit would be beneficial to the mission and work of the Circuit at some point in the future.

Rev Phil Thomas has been Superintendent of the new Circuit and before that Superintendent of the West Bromwich Circuit adding up to eleven years of service as Superintendent. Phil had indicated that when his invitation came up it would be a good idea for him to consider stepping down as Superintendent and allow someone else to take up this leadership role. Phil had overseen the amalgamation of the Tipton and West Bromwich Circuits and then the absorption of the Wednesbury Circuit to form the Black Country Circuit. This had been very taxing and time consuming and Phil was now happy to step down.

Rev Denise Williams had indicated that after serving in the Circuit for six years she felt called and ready to take on a Superintendency role. However, she would wish to do this locally for domestic and family reasons. It seemed logical therefore, that the role of Superintendent of the Black Country Circuit should be offered to Denise.

After meeting with Phil and Denise, who were quite happy with this situation, the CLT felt it was the best solution for the Circuit, i.e. for Denise to take on the role of Superintendent and for Phil to remain as a minister in the Circuit. After further discussion including conversations with Rev Rachel Parkinson, the District Chair, the CLT, including Circuit Staff, concluded that if a change was to be made it would be best to do it from September 2018.

Therefore, the CLT recommend to the Circuit the appointment of Rev Denise Williams as Superintendent of the Black Country Circuit from September 2018 until August 2021 when Denise would be subject to the invitation and stationing process.

It also recommends that Rev Phil Thomas remains as a Circuit Minister until 2019, when he too will be subject to the invitation and stationing process.



Before we finished for Easter we had a Easter Egg Hunt & also had Egg decorating competition. There was a 1st prize & runner up prize and all the Brownies came up with some great egg decorating themes!



We also made some very tasty easter nest cakes to take home!

We have lots planned for our Summer Term & have started our "Out & About Badge" which will take us on a visit to Dartmouth Park. As part of the badge we have also made a Bug Hotel, the Brownies have placed this in the church garden & will be taking it in turns checking it each week to see if we have any resident insects!



We are also planning a trip to the West Bromwich Leisure centre & will also be going on a Safari Sleepover at West Midlands Safari park in July.

In September we will be attending the You Festival at Blackwell Court in Bromsgrove along with lots of other Rainbows, Brownies & Guides from across the West Midlands.



SAFCO Presents

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WEST BROMWICH

**A BOSTIN' BLACK COUNTRY  
NIGHT**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018

7.00 – 8.30pm

With Faggots, Potatoes, Peas &  
Gravy

Please state at the time of ordering your ticket  
if you will require vegetarian faggots

**Tickets £3.00**

Tickets available from Beryl, Linda & Ann

Raffle tickets will be available on the night

# Panto Past and Present

It was really good to read Ian Belchers account of his involvement in this year's Pantomime. I was able to sense and relate to his enthusiasm for this great social event. It bought back treasured memories of my involvement around 60 years ago. However, it was slightly different back then in that there were no concerns over not having a full cast. No one had to be press ganged. In fact there were too many people who wanted to be in the panto such that inclusion was by invitation only; it was a great honour to be involved and it made you do your best if only to hold your place. Back in those earlier days the productions were on a stage at the end of the Akkrill Hall. Scenery and props were much as today but the lighting was far less sophisticated to the point of being electrically risky.

As Ian indicates being in such a group is a wonderful experience. To strive, through rehearsals towards a common goal forges friendships that last forever and as in my case can generate a lifelong passion for the stage. I also have to concur with Ian that it's hard work, nerve racking, exhausting but great fun. I recall one year playing opposite your dear Ann Percival, we danced and sang together and in one routine I lifted and carried her across the stage. The scene was exhausting. Unfortunately for us the audience loved it, so much so that we were asked for an encore. I will admit now I do not know how we got through that second run.

My acting skills are minimal but that early experience on stage at Wesley inspired me to get into amateur dramatics at festival competition level. Over the years I've been involved with a number of drama groups and many plays; covered the whole gambit of behind the scenes activity particularly set design and build. This has had a bonus of allowing me to work in some magnificent theatres. More recently I've helped run a drama group for people with learning disabilities, even written and directed a play for them. Through this I have seen the enormous benefits that being in a drama/ panto group can bring and I would recommend it to anyone. At base it develops communication skills, confidence and an understanding of others in a far better way than any other medium. This was particularly evident in the students with learning disabilities I have mentioned but it can apply to anyone.

So as Ian says here's to the continued success of the Wesley Pantomime. For the benefits it gives to the people involved, to the audience it entertains and to Wesley church funding for which, if I'm correct it is an essential part.

I cannot sign off without adding my eternal thanks to Dot and Muriel Smith also Millie Newey for introducing me to the enjoyment of drama.

**Bob Brown**

## **Property Report to Annual Church Meeting Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

I remind you that I have given notice that I intend to stand down as Property Secretary in 2020 by which time it is hoped that the building will be in a good state of repair with all the outstanding requirements completed.

This matter is on the Agenda for this meeting to try to get someone to work with me before 2020.

### Work achieved.

In the year to the end of August 2017 £26,984.83 was spent on improvements to the building 50% paid for by Wesley. So far in this financial year improvements have amounted to over £13,000 again not all paid for by the Church.

Since our last meeting 12 months ago much has been achieved:

Priority has been given to the outstanding Fire Risk Assessment work and to this end fire resistance work has been carried out to the Kitchen doors and hatches; Guild Room doors; the electric room and some of the emergency lighting. In addition a new cupboard has been built to accommodate the cleaning equipment.

We have had to make four claims on our insurance due to theft of lead, burglary, criminal damage and arson.

This has enabled some work which were requirements of the Quinquennial Inspection to be carried out and partly paid for by the insurance. These items are the parquet floor in the Akrill Hall and the new double glazed sash window in the Institute.

Most of the above were also requirements of the Quinquennial report and work is in hand to comply with other parts of this report but we will continue to give priority to the Fire Risk Assessment work.

### Heating

No one answered the requests for someone to take on the programming of the heating and so the controls have been altered to enable the heating to be controlled remotely via the internet. This was not cheap but it now means that I no longer have to travel from Stourbridge to programme the heating if I was not at church on a Sunday. Dawn also can now control the heating..

### Car Park Lease

Payments have been made to our surveyor with regard to the renewal of the lease to Lloyds bank for the use of the car park. There will be further costs as we have now appointed a solicitor to deal with the legal aspects of this matter. The final document has to be agreed by the Methodist Church legal department before it can be signed by the appointed Trustees. The good news is that the amount they pay has been increased.

### Age UK/Lottery Project

The Age UK Hub and Lottery Funded project has been a 3 year project which unfortunately comes to an end on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The funding ceases and so there will no longer be the coordination provided by Age UK to use our premises beyond that date. This is a great shame as the people who have been coming to the various activities have felt the benefit of not being isolated and enjoyed the friendships they have made. Some of the classes will finish in July. This project has been very good for Wesley but has been even more beneficial to the 600 lonely people it has regularly helped. We do not know what the future holds. It may be possible to get another funder but at this late stage that is going to be very difficult. But I would like to think that if it is possible the most viable activities could continue if the users are prepared to contribute towards some of the costs. This may mean that Wesley contributes towards the cost by reducing or giving the use of the premises free. There are some difficult decisions to be made. Please remember all the people that this affects in your prayers.

Coincidentally Age UK Sandwell will cease to exist as they are joining with and becoming part of Age UK Birmingham. This also affects Beeches Road Methodist Church as the Day Centre there is closing the end of this month.

### Grants

291 Community Association Limited Company has been very successful since 2012 in obtaining grants due to the work that Ian put in. He secured over £107,000 which enabled the major roof work and new boilers and other works to be done. However Ian is a busy man and cannot now spare the time involved in applying for grants. So the Church Council has appointed a Fund Raiser to apply for grants on behalf of 291 and the church.

### Charity Status

We are still undecided if it would be wise to apply for Charity status but if the Fund Raiser advises us to do so then we will consider it.

### Fund Raising

I was pleased to hear that Beryl and the Table Top group were holding a sale on 12<sup>th</sup> May. It raised £135.00

We owe a great debt to Keith Llewellyn who has continued to give talks as his contribution to fund raising. Whatever money he is given he gives to the Redevelopment Fund.

The Christmas Tree Festival was another great success and they are having another one this year. The beauty of this event was that so many people were involved.

Thanks to Mac and Jeanette Wills who again organised a raffle each night during the pantomime week. Thanks to Ian Jane and Linda for the work they do to produce the Pantomime and all those involved to make it the success it was.

We are also very grateful to the donations that some of you have made.

Last Sunday was Gift Day and I hope that people were as generous with their gifts to the Church Funds as in previous years.

Above all, it is hoped that people will get involved by coming forward and organising fund raising events to help us to continue the work that 291 have started on your behalf.

Please, please think of how you could get involved be it coffee mornings, barbeques whatever, all monies raised will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

### Storage

Storage has been a problem for some time but fortunately Age UK kindly gave us 3 metal cupboards which are now being used in the Muniment Room.

### Thanks

I am grateful to a number of people who continue to assist with getting jobs done, they are:

Steve Allen for his Health & Safety expertise

Alan Thompson for carrying out electrical maintenance

John Chambers and Keith Llewellyn who have carried out maintenance work.

Jeff Simpson and Mac Wills for keeping the frontage weed free and tidy.

Ann & Linda and their group of people who regularly clean the Worship area

This is not an exclusive club so if anyone wants to help please let me know.

Working Party during the summer - It is hoped that we can again have a working party this year to carry out small decorating jobs and thereby save money. If you feel you would like to be a part of this important work please talk to Linda or Ann.

### Cleaning of Community area

Jasmin Whatmore continues to do a good and efficient job of the cleaning of the community used area which cannot have been easy whilst all the repairs and Fire Risk work has been carried out.

### Community use of our Churches

I am aware that some people think that we at Wesley and the church in general spend too much time talking about property and not enough time talking about worship, I agree with them. I would go further and say that we don't talk enough about actually doing God's work getting involved with the people in our local area. Since 2007 when the Wesley congregation decided it wanted to stay on this site and agreed to change and get more involved in the community I and others have been working not only to make these premises fit for purpose but also to get these church premises used more by the local community. God has been working with us in our endeavours. This I can assure you of. There have been times when it has been really obvious. A case in point was when we were approached to get involved in the Age UK & Big Lottery funded project.

Some of you will be aware that the Circuit has now appointed a Circuit Mission Enabler to work with individual churches to encourage them to use their premises more within the community local to them. The name of this person is Mrs Elizabeth Farley who takes up her post on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Elizabeth is married with a four year old boy. She is a Christian person who has been moved by the spirit throughout her life. Elizabeth wanted to go into the ministry at the age of 20 but felt that God was telling her not yet. She became a qualified teacher rising to head of department with all the responsibilities that go with that position. She is at present in the midst of training to become a Local Preacher having preached on note for some time. She is a caring person and very able. The Circuit Leadership Team believe that Elizabeth will enable us and help us to fulfil our hopes and dreams for the future of this Black Country Circuit.

### Letting Co-ordinator.

Dawn Davey continues to look after the booking of lettings and the Room Diary for which I am very grateful. Dawn will give her own report on the letting situation.

Wesley together with 291 continue to serve the local community by providing the church facilities and a friendly and welcoming attitude to all who enter the building. That is what we are here for. To support our neighbours with love and fellowship.

### **Derek Percival**

#### THANK YOU

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and kind words of sympathy sent to me recently. Please give my best wishes and thanks to those who remember me (Maureen Whitehouse).

I was very touched to read the piece in your Family News remembering Mike (Mick), myself and our family following his sad passing from bowel cancer. **So many of our old friends from 'Big'** Wesley wrote cards and came to the Celebration Service of his life. It was amazing that Ken Dunn, Graham & Janet Cooper, Rosemary (Newey) & Derek Roberts, Gill & Roy Jesson, Peter & Dot Shirley and Mac & Jeanette Wills all came to share in this occasion with us and it was so good to see them.

It was an amazing day with a packed church of 300 people and nearly 200 at the hotel afterwards. Mike was a true forward thinking Christian as well as being a Circuit Steward and District Rep and would have been smiling at the 12 clergy, District Mission Enabler and The Mayor (she came as a family friend) who all attended his service.

Maureen Brown

# Christian Aid Big Brekkie

We had a great morning on Sat 19th May as a number of us joined together for fellowship, music and food for our 1st Christian Aid Big Brekkie! Continental style though, as we were trying to look after your health! It was great to see friends from across the circuit join us to raise vital funds for Christian Aid.

We had just gone through Christian Aid week in our calendar, yet the work of Christian Aid goes on all year round.

Their aims are to stand together for everyone's dignity, and for equality, justice and peace, remembering that everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet, as we know, we live in a world where poverty and injustice still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets justice thrive.

Christian Aid believe that together we have the power to transform lives and working in 37 countries, and with people of all faiths and none they aim to;

- expose poverty throughout the world
- try to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised

We are reminded as Christians that in seeking to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, we are commanded to love our neighbour and work for a better world.

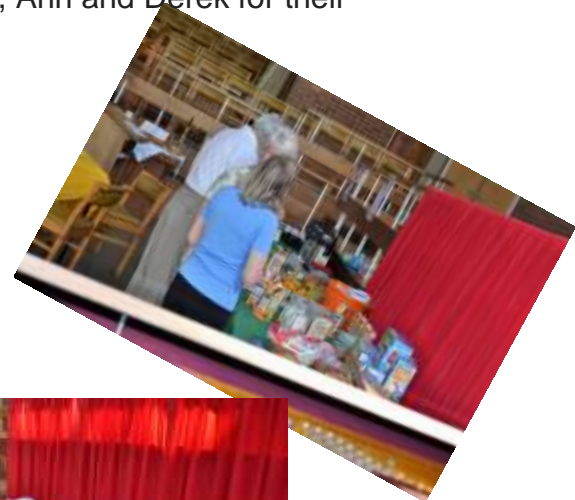
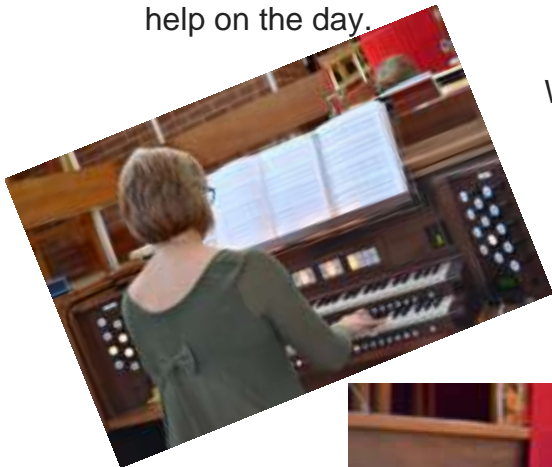
Christian Aid stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world - both in times of crisis and for the longer term. They give people survival essentials when they are without shelter or refuge, and help them to find strength and resources they need to flourish and protect themselves from shocks and disasters. They support people to stand up for their rights and to build stable, secure lives they can enjoy living.

We are pleased to say that £190 was raised and a big thank you to all for your kind donations.

For those that took part, our Big Brekkie Quiz winner of a cooked breakfast was Derek - although he will have to cook it himself!!

Helen and I would like to also say a huge thank you to Linda, Ann and Derek for their help on the day.

With God's blessings to all.  
**Steve and Helen**





## Shaping Faith & Worship at Wesley

Following discussions at a recent Family Committee and the Annual Church Meeting, by the time you read this, a discussion group will have met to contemplate how we approach worship and our faith by worshipping together at Wesley.

This was a time to listen and understand what is important to each of us when we come together on a Sunday to offer worship to God.

We hope there has been lively discussion and many ideas put forward, some of which we hope to introduce into worship at Wesley over the coming weeks and months. If you have any suggestions, observations, comments, please let us know.

We hope that the discussion group will meet again on perhaps a quarterly basis; please check the notice board, website and weekly notice sheets for details.

**Steve & Helen Allen**



Bible month is an opportunity for churches and circuits to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. By focusing on a single biblical book, the aim of bible month is to help all in church engage more deeply with Scripture. A pilot project showed that the Bible month could be effective in raising biblical literacy, and the majority of those who took part were keen to hold another Bible Month in the future....

**So, we thought we'd give it a try; we therefore invite friends at Wesley to share with us in fellowship at our home learning more about and discussing the book of **Jonah**.**

Monday evenings in June at 7:30pm for an hour or so

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Chapter 1

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Chapter 2

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Chapter 3

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Chapter 4

**We realise that by the time you read this you may have missed the first session! You don't need to attend all sessions (but it may be helpful to have read the chapter you've missed), please come whenever you are able to.**

We will then bring our fellowship together by leading morning worship on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July at Wesley

**Steve & Helen Allen**

# Family News



## Our Thoughts and Prayers for:

Olive and Frank Brookes, Mollie Neale, Terry Price, Win Thomas

## Special Birthday Wishes to:

Joshua Gould who celebrates his 18th Birthday on 30th June.

## Special Wishes to:



Geoff and Joan Simpson who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 14th June



## Our marathon-running musicians and worship leaders



(Photo taken around an hour or so after completing the Brighton Marathon!)

Despite the inclement weather which did hinder our training schedule on some weekends early this year, we are pleased to say that we have both completed both Liverpool Half Marathon and Brighton Marathon this year.

We celebrated our achievement in Liverpool with a Sunday night visit to the famous Cavern Club; an experience in itself and the cheapest round of drinks as we had both given up alcohol (true Methodists!) for Lent.

On Monday morning we were privileged to visit the magnificent Liverpool Cathedral after a lovely walk along the Mersey (which we had run along in the opposite direction the morning before!) There was a service taking place in the cathedral which we joined for the latter part, a dedication service for the clergy in the Liverpool diocese at the start of Holy Week.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April, we then both completed the Brighton Marathon (Helen's 3<sup>rd</sup> full marathon and Steve's 6<sup>th</sup>); Helen's quote on Facebook said it all, "We did it! Steve in 4:13:36 and Helen in 4:56:41 we were both pleased with our times **but have really honestly said never again, and we mean it this time!**".

This was followed within days with a message reading, "**Congratulations!! You entered the 2019 Virgin Money London Marathon Ballot**". How friends and colleagues have laughed! We will find out whether either of us have been allocated a place in October.....

Once a runner, always a runner!! Maybe we should start a Wesley Running Club? Anyone interested?

**Steve & Helen Allen**

## Wesley goes surfing

Wesley has finally made it onto the world-wide web!

The following two websites are now live and will include information about Wesley and all that happens here

[www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk](http://www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk)  
[www.291communityassociation.co.uk](http://www.291communityassociation.co.uk)

## THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE

10.00am - 12 noon

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat with friends on Thursday mornings at Wesley.  
Coffee/Tea and biscuits 25p.



**Next Edition  
August**

If you have any items you would like published in Spotlite, please send to me :

[patxthompson@btinternet.com](mailto:patxthompson@btinternet.com)

Thank You

**ALL ITEMS TO ME BY  
MONDAY 6TH AUGUST  
PLEASE**

**A Big Thank You**

A big thank you to all those who have contributed so generously to Wesley over the last twelve months.

Gill

# Rooms for Hire Rooms for Hire

## Contact Details

For bookings and general enquiries for the use of the building please contact:

By telephone Dawn Davey 0121 553 2085

Email: [d.davey619@virginmedia.com](mailto:d.davey619@virginmedia.com)

The websites:

[www.291communityassociation.co.uk](http://www.291communityassociation.co.uk)

[www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk](http://www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk)

Wesley – [www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk](http://www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk)

291 – [www.291communityassociation.co.uk](http://www.291communityassociation.co.uk)

## Email Circulation

If anybody who currently receives Spotlite by post would prefer to save paper and save us postage costs, you could get it by email instead. Simply send an email to [patxthompson@btinternet.com](mailto:patxthompson@btinternet.com) and request that you be added to the email circulation list.

The next issue of Spotlite will be August if you have anything to go into this issue please let me have your notices by Monday 6th August LATEST Thank you.

Contact the Editor: Email: - [patxthompson@btinternet.com](mailto:patxthompson@btinternet.com)  
Address: - 5 Broadfield Close, West Bromwich, B71 3EU or

Tel: - 07811291334  
via Linda and Keith Adams

- If you know of anybody who should receive a copy of Spotlite in the post please inform Ian Collett.
- If anybody would like a copy emailed to them please inform the editor.

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Church Services are held every Sunday at 11:00 and 18:15